

Draws Wide Support From Public

AGNEW, From A4

The Vice President, proclaimed Pierre Salinger, former White House press secretary, delivered "one of the most dangerous speeches ever given by a high public official."

In contrast, Duke Burdick, the newly appointed chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, which regulates the television industry, said the complaints raised by Agnew were "thoughtful, articulate and deserved broad consideration by the agency and the public."

Burdick, in fact, had personally asked the three networks for transcripts of their commentary on President Nixon's Vietnam speech Nov. 3, a commentary which Agnew denounced as "hostile." The FCC said Burdick's request made ten days after the President's speech "arose from complaints from broadcasters and other sources." Burdick's office considers transcripts for the FCC, authorized to make a personal inquiry into a program in any normal channel.

The strong reaction and sharp division was provoked by the eight-page address which Agnew delivered Thursday night before a Republican banquet in Los Angeles, Calif. He said, among other things, that the TV network news, controlled by "a tiny and ungodly fraternity of privileged men," is unfair to the President and unrepresentative of the nation.

He characterized the TV news and their studio producers as being "under the heavy influence of East Coast social and political biases," their news selection, he said, "emphasizing the bad news over the good, the right over the positive."

While most of the reaction from public officials followed predictable party lines, ABC news' speech mixed general themes, which, by no means appeal exclusively to Repu-

blians. The question of concentration of power in the television industry and the public's access to broadcasting has been raised in the past by a variety of critics—from the negro majority in the South to George Wallace to white radicals in the North.

For example, the subject came up yesterday as one of students' gathering along the Mall for a march on the Justice Department in connection with the anti-war Movement. They surrounded a TV news man and argued that Agnew's "right" but for the wrong reasons. TV news, they insisted, is loaded in favor of the Establishment—and includes their radical viewpoint. In New York City, S. Franklin Adams, an officer of the League of Communist Party of the United States, called the speech "a masterpiece of a verbal attack on the TV newsman," and his personal views on the speech. He said the "TV newsman" had "a special responsibility to the public."

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The heavy public response, recorded by TV stations and the White House, also suggests that Agnew sparked an issue with renewed energy. In his own office, he hurriedly announced 4,500 teleggrams supporting his speech and an agent in Chicago to 1,500 above calls were received there, roughly 100 in his favor. Agnew himself was away yesterday attending the American Lung Association in New York.

The cable television stations, though less fringed than were heavily in his favor in Washington, for instance, WTOP-TV by late afternoon today had received 1,367 for him and 410 against. The Associated Press surveyed a ran-

dom of radio and television stations not of the nation and found the immediate response was generally in support of the Vice President.

The White House, as it has done after Agnew's other congressional speeches in recent weeks, disseminated an advance knowledge. Presidential Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said President Nixon had not seen an advance copy, but watched the address on TV.

"I don't have and believe we don't have consensus in this administration," Ziegler said. But the sharp reaction was "not as much criticism as the other main theme of the Vice President's speech. His emphasis on pointing the spot news program at the bad and the good, for all those who believe the President's Complex with the FCC Chairman. Ziegler's performance in the speech, that talk of the speech of a new generation of people."

Thomas J. Kelly of the National Association of Broadcasters, a former Agnew aide, said Agnew's speech was "a masterpiece of a verbal attack on the TV newsman," and his personal views on the speech. He said the "TV newsman" had "a special responsibility to the public."

He said he tried to bridge the differences that Agnew said should not be spoken. "I don't think we should speak about these things," Ziegler said. He insisted that Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, but he was forced to say "we are not speaking about this" because of the American Lung Association, but he was not speaking about this because of the American Lung Association. He said he tried to bridge the differences that Agnew said should not be spoken. "I don't think we should speak about these things," Ziegler said. He insisted that Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, but he was forced to say "we are not speaking about this" because of the American Lung Association.